

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

PG 68-4-9

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common NASA Washington Federal Credit Union

2. Location

street & number 4705 Queensbury Ave. ☐ not for publication

city, town Riverdale ☐ vicinity of congressional district #5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name NASA Washington Federal Credit Union

street & number 4705 Queensbury Ave. telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4303

street & number 14735 Main St. folio 379

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. ⁶⁸68-4-9

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The NASA Washington Federal Credit Union stands on the North east corner of the intersection of Queensbury and Lafayette Avenues. It is roughly 90'-square, with a flat roof.

The principal (north) facade, fronting on Queensbury Ave., is of yellow brick. Five large (approx. 9' x 9') windows, evenly spaced; two projecting courses of brick work $\frac{2}{3}$ up the height of the building; and a dark brown metal hip roof portico projecting about six feet out and rising to the roof line above a doorway located between the two windows at the east end of the facade, are the its only decorative elements. The portico has been glassed in.

The approximately 10' wide strip of land between the building and the sidewalk along Queensbury Ave. is rather generously landscaped, with poplar trees, rhododendrons, and mulched flower beds.

The east facade is of concrete blocks, and fronts on a large parking lot that serves the credit union. Like the main doorway on the north side, this side has a dark brown metal canopy projecting approximately 6 feet out and running almost the length of the building. Near the northern corner of this facade is another doorway, also with a glassed-in foyer. In the middle of the facade is a drive-up teller's window and a night-deposit box; and at the far southern end of the facade is another door, not for public access. Two drain pipes are located near each end of the facade.

The west facade fronting along Lafayette Ave. and, beyond it, the B & O line, is a solid concrete block wall, with no windows or doors. But like the principal facade, the landscaping along it is well-executed and tendered.

The south facade is largely hidden from view from the street by a wall that encloses the southern $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 2, serving as a lumber yard of sorts. It too is a solid concrete block wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. RG 68-4-9

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The building presently occupied by a branch of the NASA Washington Federal Credit Union stands on lot 1 and the north half of lot 2, block 41, to the west of and across Lafayette Ave. from the B & O line (Washington branch), and the once-busy Queensbury Crossing.

The land on which it was built was part of the "Riversdale" estate of the Calvert family. The B & O line was laid through the property in the mid-19th century, but what became the town of Riverdale was not platted until 1889, two years after 475 acres of the estate were bought by the Riverdale Park Co., with the intention of developing a commuter suburb for Washington.

The actual development of the suburb of Riverdale was initiated in 1890/91, with the construction of the B & O RR Station. The fact that it was located at the (present day) Queensbury Ave. crossing argues strongly for the likelihood that this point was envisioned by the suburb's developers as the actual "centre" of the community. The community's major institution, the Presbyterian Church, was located a block away, and streetcar service initiated in 1899 along (present day) R.I. Ave. reinforced the idea of the centrality of the Crossing to the life of the community.

A building stood on this busy corner lot as early as 1904, but it and the north half of the adjoining lot 2 on which the subject building stands were not under joint ownership until 1948. The following year, substantial improvements were made to the two lots, now assessed as a unit. Additional improvements were made a few years later, between 1952 and 1953, in which state the building remains today, with the more recent embellishments of the east side's canopy and north side's portico being added sometime more recently--probably when it was adapted for use of the Credit Union when it became the owner in 1973.

While the building's style is unremarkable, it is relatively uncommon for Riverdale: It's sheer mass, and its location at the busy Queensbury crossing, suggest that its has been of more significance to the community for the phase it represented (of a "new" post-war economic expansion) than for the use(s) it served, or even the aesthetic standard it incorporated.

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